

a plurality of piezoelectric layers and electrode layers which are stacked in alternate fashion,

an abutment member which is brought into direct abutment with at least one end face of one of the piezoelectric layers in a stretching direction thereof, the abutment member being made of a different material than the material of the piezoelectric layers;

a coating member having electric insulating properties which covers at least part of the abutment portion between said abutment member and said one of the piezoelectric layers so that the state is maintained in which said abutment member and said one of the piezoelectric layers are in direct abutment with each other without adhesive interposed between the abutment member and said one of the piezoelectric layers.

3. (Amended) A stacked-type piezoelectric device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said abutment member has electrically insulating properties.

4. (Amended) A stacked-type piezoelectric device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said coating member covers the full circumference of the abutment portion between said one of the piezoelectric layers and said abutment member.

5. (Amended) A stacked-type piezoelectric device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the coating member covers the abutment portion between

said one of the piezoelectric layers and said abutment member and the entire surface of the outer circumference of said piezoelectric layers.

6. (Amended) A stacked-type piezoelectric device as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising side electrodes disposed on two opposed sides of said piezoelectric layers, and wherein said coating member covers at least said side electrodes entirely.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in this application. Claims 8-10 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached is captioned “**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.**”

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yano (EP ‘192). Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Mitarai et al (U.S. ‘464, hereinafter “Mitarai”). Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Inoue et al (U.S. ‘232, hereinafter “Inoue”). Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as